

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (currently amended). An isolated polypeptide ~~comprising an~~ consisting of the amino acid sequence ~~derived from~~ of SEQ ID NO: ~~2, 4, 6, 8 or 10~~ 6.

2 (currently amended). The polypeptide of claim 1 ~~comprising the~~ consisting of amino acid ~~sequence of the mature protein~~ residues 1-210 of SEQ ID NO: 6.

Claims 3-16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (new). The polypeptide of claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is encoded by nucleotides 386-1066 of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 18 (new). The polypeptide of claim 2 wherein the polypeptide is encoded by nucleotides 437-1066 of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 19 (new). A polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 20 (new). A method for detecting a specific antigenic polypeptide in a sample, said method comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting a sample suspected to contain the polypeptide of claim 19 with an antibody specific for said polypeptide, under conditions in which a stable antigen-

antibody complex can form between said antibody and said polypeptide in said sample; and

(ii) detecting any antigen-antibody complex formed in step (i), wherein detection of an antigen-antibody complex indicates the presence of said antigenic polypeptide in said sample.

Claim 21 (new). A method for screening for candidate therapeutic agents comprising:

selecting as a target the polypeptide of claim 19;

contacting a test compound with said target; and

selecting as a candidate therapeutic agent a test compound that binds to the target.